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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 132

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 25th meeting, on 23 December 2011. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/66/SR.25).

II. Consideration of draft decision A/C.5/66/L.24

3. At its 25th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/66/L.24), submitted by the Chair of the Committee.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/66/L.24 without a vote (see para. 5).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

5. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

A

The General Assembly decides to defer until the first part of its resumed sixty-sixth session consideration of the following documents:

Item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2010[2]

Ninth annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan and report of the Secretary-General on the proposals for financing associated costs for 2012 from within the approved budget for the capital master plan[3]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the capital master plan[4]

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of capital master plan procurement and contract management, including change orders[5]

Report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034[6]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034[7]

Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council[8]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/66/5 (Vol.V)).
[2] A/66/324.
[3] A/66/527 and Add.1.
[4] A/66/7/Add.11.
[5] A/66/179.
[6] A/66/349.
[7] A/66/7/Add.3, chap. V.
[8] A/66/558 and Corr.1.

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financing of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council[9]

Report of the Secretary-General on limited budgetary discretion[10]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on limited budgetary discretion[11]

B

The General Assembly decides to defer until the main part of its sixty-seventh session consideration of the following documents:

Item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions[12]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions[13]

[9] A/66/7/Add.16.
[10] A/66/570.
[11] A/66/7/Add.18.
[12] A/66/340.
[13] A/66/7/Add.21.

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

1. At its 23rd and 25th meetings, on 16 and 23 December 2011, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/66/10) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1. At the 23rd meeting, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/66/7/Add.15). The draft decision submitted by the Chair following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 3).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.23 and 25).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/66/19) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/7/Add.15), decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1, additional resources amounting to $1,200,500 would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012 under

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section 3, Political affairs, and $157,600 under section 37, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for the continued efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. Approval for those requirements is being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council in documents A/66/354/Add.1 and Corr.1.

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Agenda items 134 and 69 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.29/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

1. At its 23rd and 25th meetings, on 16 and 23 December 2011, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/66/11) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.29/Rev.1. At the 23rd meeting, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/66/7/Add.17). The draft decision submitted by the Chair following informal consultations was before the Committee (see A/C.5/66/L.7, sect. B).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.23 and 25).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/66/11) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/7/Add.17), decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.29/Rev.1, additional resources amounting to $2,993,200 would be required, including $2,770,800 under section 2, General Assembly and

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Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; $213,600 under section 24, Human rights; and $8,800 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. These appropriations for the biennium 2012-2013 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operations of the contingency fund.

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Agenda items 134 and 76 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Oceans and the law of the sea

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/66/L.21

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

1. At its 23rd and 25th meetings, on 16 and 23 December 2011, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/66/12) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/66/L.21. At the 23rd meeting, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/66/7/Add.14). The draft decision submitted by the Chair following informal consultations was before the Committee (see A/C.5/66/L.7, sect. C).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.23 and 25).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/66/12) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/7/Add.14), decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/66/L.21, additional resources amounting to $815,800 gross ($729,100 net) would be required under section 8, Legal affairs ($537,000), section 29D, Office of Central Support Services ($192,100), and section 37, Staff assessment ($86,700), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. These

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appropriations for the biennium 2012-2013 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operations of the contingency fund.

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Agenda item 137

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 8th and 25th meetings, on 12 October and 23 December. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.8 and 25).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences for 2011 (A/66/32);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/66/118 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/397).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.25

4. At its 25th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/66/L.25), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Senegal.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.25 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2002, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005, 60/236 B of 8 May 2006, 61/236 of 22 December 2006, 62/225 of 22 December 2007, 63/248 of 24 December 2008, 63/284 of 30 June 2009, 64/230 of 22 December 2009 and 65/245 of 24 December 2010,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2011[1] and the relevant report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Reaffirming the provisions relating to conference services in its resolutions on multilingualism, in particular resolution 65/311 of 19 July 2011,

I
Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2011;[1]

2. *Approves* the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2012 and 2013, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[4] taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012 and 2013 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/66/32).

[2] A/66/118 and Corr.1.

[3] A/66/397.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/66/32), annex II.

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265, 60/236 A, 61/236, 62/225, 63/248, 64/230 and 65/245 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Invites* Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings;

7. *Recalls* rule 153 of its rules of procedure, and requests the Secretary-General to include the modalities of conferences in resolutions involving expenditure, with a view to mobilizing conference services and documentation in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible;

II

A. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

1. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to the meetings of Member States;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;[5]

3. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

4. *Notes* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations in 2010 was 85 per cent, as compared with 86 per cent in 2009 and 85 per cent in 2008, which is above the established benchmark of 80 per cent;

5. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to continue consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

6. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the bodies' utilization factor owing to the amount of time lost, and invites the secretariats and bureaux of bodies to pay adequate attention to avoiding late starts and unplanned early endings;

7. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by the bodies entitled to meet "as required" that were provided with interpretation services in New York in 2010 was 94 per cent, as compared with 95 per cent in 2009, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to impress upon such bodies the need to strive to optimize the

[5] ST/AI/416.

utilization of the conference services provided and to report on the provision of conference services to those bodies through the Committee on Conferences;

8. *Reiterates its request* to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficient use of conference services;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met, and requests the Secretariat to inform the requesters as early as possible about the availability of conference services, including interpretation, as well as about any changes that might occur before the holding of meetings;

10. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations was 84 per cent in 2010, as compared with 79 per cent in 2009, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to employ innovative means to address the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

11. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 65/245, section II.A, paragraph 10, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies were held in Nairobi in 2010, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session through the Committee on Conferences;

13. *Notes with concern* the decrease in the utilization rate of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, and recognizes the Commission's ongoing promotional efforts and initiatives;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, including on the impact of the initiatives of the Commission;

15. *Recognizes* the proactive efforts of the Secretary-General to identify ways to enhance efficiencies and effectiveness in conference services;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose, at its sixty-seventh session, a comprehensive review of conference servicing highlighting any duplications and

redundancies with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of its services;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences to consult with those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure of their allocated resources of the past three sessions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and urges the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underuti'ize their conference-servicing resources to work more closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat and to consider changes to their programmes of work, as appropriate, including adjustments based on previous patterns of recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their underutilization factors;

B. Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the capital master plan, including the temporary relocation of conference-servicing staff to swing spaces, will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to Member States in the six official languages and the equal treatment of the language services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving the maximum quality of services;

2. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat on all matters related to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating activities at Headquarters during the construction period;

3. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information technology support for conference services, within the existing resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in order to ensure their seamless operation throughout the implementation of the capital master plan;

5. *Notes* that, for the duration of the implementation of the capital master plan, a part of the conference-servicing staff and information technology resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has been temporarily relocated to swing spaces, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support, within the existing resources of the Department, to ensure continued maintenance of the information technology facilities of the Department, implementation of the global information technology initiative and delivery of high-quality conference services;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;

III
Integrated global management

1. *Notes* the progress achieved in the implementation of the global information technology project, aimed at integrating, across duty stations, information technology into meetings management and documentation-processing systems, and the global approach to harmonizing standards and information technology and sharing good practices and technological achievements among conference services at the four main duty stations;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General, using in-house capacity, to improve the utilization of conference services, in particular through the implementation of the project on the Electronic Meetings Planning and Resource Allocation System (e-Meets) and the interpreters assignment programme (e-APG module) (project 2),[6] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on other efforts to that end;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the project on global documentation management (project 3)[6] and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

4. *Notes* the initiatives undertaken in the context of integrated global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring equal treatment of conference-servicing staff, as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

5. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Notes* that the pool of language professionals at duty stations is uneven in terms of language combinations, and requests the Secretary-General to develop recruitment, subcontracting and outreach policies that take full account of these imbalances;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving the maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

8. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

9. *Also reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

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[6] See A/63/119 and Corr.1, sect. II.B.

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations and to report on a regular basis to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to explore innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and committee Chairs and Secretaries on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly apprised of progress made in integrated global management;

14. *Notes with concern* that the Secretary-General did not include in his report on the pattern of conferences[2] information about the financial savings achieved through the implementation of the integrated global management projects, as requested in section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 63/248, in section III, paragraph 12, of its resolution 64/230 and in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 65/245, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General redouble his efforts to include this information in his next report on the pattern of conferences;

15. *Takes note* of the undertakings of the Secretary-General described in paragraph 25 of his report,[2] and requests him to continue to assess the conference management efficiency and accountability mechanisms across the four main duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

16. *Also takes note* of the flextime pilot project initiated by the United Nations Office at Vienna, stresses that the rules and regulations of the United Nations governing human resources issues should be applied uniformly during the implementation of the pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the evaluation of the pilot project, including a recommendation on whether the project should be continued at the United Nations Office at Vienna and further implemented at other duty stations;

17. *Notes* paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] welcomes the proximity rule as an efficient approach, where feasible, to servicing meetings away from duty stations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to rigorously apply the proximity rule to those meetings that are applicable without jeopardizing the quality of the services and to report thereon to the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences in 2012;

IV
Matters related to documentation and publications

1. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision in section IV of its resolution 64/230 that all reports adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council shall be issued as documents in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely manner before their consideration by the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, 51/211 A to E, 52/214, 53/208 A to E and 59/265, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the support necessary to that effect and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-seventh session;

3. *Reiterates with concern its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages be strictly respected as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website, in keeping with section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

5. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of the timely issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

7. *Acknowledges* that a multipronged approach is required to find a solution to the perennial difficulties of the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

8. *Recognizes* the work done by the interdepartmental task force on documentation chaired by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

9. *Encourages* the Chairs of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to continue to promote cooperation between the two bodies in the sphere of documentation;

10. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the task force to shepherd the submission of documents by the author departments of the Secretariat;

11. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* that all documents submitted on time and within the word limit were processed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management within four weeks, and encourages the Secretary-General to sustain that level of performance;

13. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265 that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(a) A summary of the report;

(b) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(c) Relevant background information;

15. *Also reiterates its request* that all documents submitted to legislative organs by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

16. *Notes with concern* that only 50 per cent of the author departments reached the compliance rate of 90 per cent in the timely submission of their reports to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and requests the Secretary-General to enforce the slotting system more rigorously through a dedicated focus, such as the interdepartmental task force on documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

17. *Urges* author departments to fully adhere to deadlines in meeting the goal of 90 per cent submission compliance, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documents submitted late do not adversely affect the issuance of documents submitted on time and in compliance with set guidelines;

18. *Reiterates its request* in section IV, paragraph 16, of its resolution 65/245 that the Secretary-General provide information on the waiver process for documents that are submitted over the word limit;

19. *Welcomes* the interactions between the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the author departments on waiver management, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continuous efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

20. *Notes* that the effects of workload-sharing in the context of global document management remain minimal, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways to promote workload-sharing among the four duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

21. *Emphasizes* the role of Member States and their intergovernmental bodies in determining the policies of conference management;

22. *Stresses* that proposals to change such policies are to be approved by Member States in their relevant intergovernmental bodies;

23. *Notes* the concept of paper-smart meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report defining in detail this emerging concept, clearly identifying the appropriate technologies for its effective implementation, including the technological benchmark and procurement needs, including those related to the provision of technological support to Member States, business continuity plans, human resources implications and training needs at the

four duty stations, bearing in mind the need for document and data security, as well as proper archiving;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report requested in paragraph 23 above the lessons learned from the meetings that will implement the paper-smart concept on a trial basis with the full consent of the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

25. *Notes* that the Official Document System is the official digital repository of the United Nations;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that these archives are also available to Member States through that medium;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on a detailed time frame for the digitization of all important older United Nations documents, including parliamentary documents, and on options for expediting this process within existing resources;

28. *Takes note* of the pilot project undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the United Nations Office at Vienna to transition to digital recordings of meetings in the six official languages of the Organization as a cost-saving measure;

29. *Emphasizes* that the further expansion of this measure would require consideration by the General Assembly, including its legal, financial and human resources implications, and full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon and on the evaluation of the pilot project mentioned above to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

V
Matters related to translation and interpretation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held twice a year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and that they are in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

3. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

4. *Reaffirms* section V, paragraph 4, of its resolution 65/245, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, including the use of international or local contracts, as appropriate, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are

provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretariat to fill current vacancies in the language services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, reiterates its request that the Secretary-General consider further measures aimed at decreasing the vacancy rates in Nairobi, and requests that the Secretary-General report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance in order to fill current and future vacancies in the language services in a timely manner and to inform the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session of efforts in this regard;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the accuracy of translation;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to increase the proportion of translation done contractually, with a view to achieving, inter alia, further efficiencies where this mode of delivery yields a final product that is of comparable quality to in-house translation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

9. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the experience, lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of the staff needed to carry out this function;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to establish globally standardized performance indicators and costing models aimed at a more cost-effective strategy for the in-house processing of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to submit such information to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address, inter alia, the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists, in order to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

13. *Notes* the need for energetic measures to avoid a disruptive shortage of applicants and a high turnover rate in the language career fields, and requests the Secretary-General to use the appropriate means to improve the internship programme, including through partnerships with organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations;

14. *Also notes*, in this regard, that recent efforts have led to the signing of two memorandums of understanding with two universities in Africa, and that no memorandums of understanding have been signed with Latin American institutions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make further concerted efforts to promote outreach programmes, such as traineeships and internships, and to introduce innovative methods to increase awareness of the programmes, including through partnerships with Member States, relevant international organizations and language institutions in all regions, in particular to close the wide gap in Africa and Latin America, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-seventh session;

16. *Requests* the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management, to continue to increase its efforts to raise awareness among all Member States about opportunities for employment and internships in the language services in the four main duty stations;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the positive experience with traineeships at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna in training young professionals in and attracting them to the translation and interpretation services of the United Nations, while enhancing the pool of qualified language professionals in language combinations that are critical for succession-planning purposes, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the initiative further, to extend it to all duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

18. *Notes* that the consolidated lists of individuals and entities subject to sanctions, according to the sanctions committees of the Security Council, have not yet been translated into all six official languages, reiterates its recommendation that the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions of the Security Council look further into the practices related to the issuance of these consolidated lists, including their translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon at its sixty-seventh session.

United Nations A/66/643

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda items 132 and 142

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the items entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and "Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services" and to allocate them to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the items at its 4th and 25th meetings, on 4 October and 23 December 2011. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.4 and 25).

3. For its consideration of the items, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Office for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/286 (Part I) and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the activities of the Committee for the period from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011 (A/66/299);

(c) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The audit function in the United Nations system" and his

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comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/66/73 and Add.1).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.26

4. At its 25th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities" (A/C.5/66/L.26), which was submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Japan.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.26 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities

The General Assembly,

I

Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004, 60/259 of 8 May 2006, 63/265 of 24 December 2008, 63/287 of 30 June 2009, 64/232 of 22 December 2009, 64/263 of 29 March 2010 and 65/250 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011,[1] as well as the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The audit function in the United Nations system"[2] and the related note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Unit,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on reports submitted to it;

2. *Also reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

3. *Further reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of the internal and external oversight mechanisms;

4. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat shall exercise operational independence under the authority of the Secretary-General relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;

5. *Encourages* United Nations internal and external oversight bodies to further enhance the level of their cooperation with one another, such as through joint work planning sessions, without prejudice to the independence of each;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;[1]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions pertaining to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services are brought to the attention of the relevant managers;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions, including resolutions of a cross-cutting nature, are brought to the

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[1] A/66/286 (Part I) and Add.1.

[2] See A/66/73.

[3] See A/66/73/Add.1.

attention of relevant managers, and that the Office of Internal Oversight Services also takes those resolutions into account in the conduct of its activities;

9. *Encourages* the Office of Internal Oversight Services to continue its efforts aimed at enhancing its audit, investigation, inspection and evaluation functions;

10. *Recalls* paragraphs 7 and 8 of its resolution 64/263, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with comprehensively defining and compiling key oversight terms related to the work of the Office in close consultation with relevant departments and offices, including the Department of Management and the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, bearing in mind existing definitions used by the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit, and taking into account the views of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

11. *Encourages* the Office of Internal Oversight Services to continue to identify in its analyses in future annual reports general trends and strategic challenges over time, regarding internal oversight in the United Nations, including an update on all critical recommendations and taking into account the risk category and the target date for implementation and the office concerned that is to be held accountable for such implementation;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement outstanding and recurring accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services dealing with issues that are systemic in nature;

13. *Notes with concern* the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage all programme managers to increase their efforts to fully implement the accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, including those relating to cost avoidance, recovery of overpayments, efficiency gains and other improvements, in a prompt and timely manner and to provide detailed justifications in cases where recommendations of the Office are not accepted;

16. *Notes* the role of the Management Committee in monitoring closely the implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies, and stresses the importance of follow-up with programme managers to ensure the full implementation of those recommendations in a prompt and timely manner;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to reduce the high number of vacant posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in particular at the senior levels;

18. *Reaffirms its concern* over the continuing vacancies in the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and in this regard reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General to make every effort to fill vacancies in the Office at all levels as a matter of priority, in accordance with the relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations;

19. *Recognizes* the efforts and initiatives of the Office of Internal Oversight Services undertaken to strengthen internal oversight, including the improvement of internal controls, accountability mechanisms, organizational efficiency and effectiveness, as well as improvements in the monitoring of its recommendations, in accordance with its given mandate, and encourages the Office to continue its efforts in this regard;

20. *Reaffirms* paragraph 12 of its resolution 64/263;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with submitting a proposal to the General Assembly no later than the main part of its sixty-seventh session on the dissemination and distribution of internal audit reports, including the parameters and modalities, and in full consultation with key stakeholders, including the Department of Management, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

22. *Notes* paragraph 28 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[4] and decides that the Office shall continue its current procedures for reporting to the General Assembly;

23. *Reaffirms* that the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit shall continue to be provided with copies of all reports produced by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, requests that these be made available within one month of their finalization, and emphasizes the need for comments by the Board and the Unit, as appropriate;

II
Activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

Recalling its resolution 61/275 of 29 June 2007,

Having considered the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011,[5]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

2. *Reaffirms* the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, as contained in the annex to resolution 61/275;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 61/275, and in that regard emphasizes the role of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee in ensuring the operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

4. *Encourages* United Nations oversight bodies to continue sharing experience, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned with the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, in order for the Committee to better conduct its roles and responsibilities under its terms of reference, without prejudice to the respective mandates of United Nations oversight bodies;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of its resolution 64/263, and in this regard:

[4] A/66/286 (Part I).
[5] A/66/299.

(a) Decides to keep under review observations, comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 19, 20 (d), 21, 24, 42 and 43 of the annex to the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009;[6]

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services include a brief description of any impairment of its independence;

6. *Endorses* the observations, comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 14, 17, 18, 20, 26, 31, 37, 40, 42, 44 and 50 of the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation, taking into account the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly relevant to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

[6] A/64/288.

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 141

United Nations common system

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "United Nations common system" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 12th and 25th meetings, on 24 October and 23 December 2011. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.12 and 25).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2011 (A/66/30 and Corr.2);

(b) Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly concerning the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011 (A/66/394 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011 (A/66/7/Add.4 and Corr.1).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.27

4. At its 25th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission" (A/C.5/66/L.27), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Switzerland.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.27 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. The recommendation of the Fifth Committee on the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2011 (A/66/394 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions will be contained in the report of the Fifth Committee under agenda item 134, entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013".

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/198 of 21 December 1989, 51/216 of 18 December 1996, 52/216 of 22 December 1997, 53/209 of 18 December 1998, 55/223 of 23 December 2000, 56/244 of 24 December 2001, 57/285 of 20 December 2002, 58/251 of 23 December 2003, 59/268 of 23 December 2004, 60/248 of 23 December 2005, 61/239 of 22 December 2006, 62/227 of 22 December 2007, 63/251 of 24 December 2008, 64/231 of 22 December 2009 and 65/248 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2011,[1]

Reaffirming its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

Reiterating the importance of maintaining and strengthening the United Nations common system salaries, allowances and personnel standards,

Convinced that the common system constitutes the best instrument through which to secure staff with the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity for the international civil service, as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Civil Service Commission;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission for 2011;[1]

3. *Encourages* the Commission to continue to coordinate and regulate the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by Member States on their national civil services;

4. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in approving conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission;[2]

5. *Recalls* articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission, and reaffirms the central role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/66/30 and Corr.2).

[2] Resolution 3357 (XXIX), annex.

A. Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff

1. Mobility and hardship scheme

1. *Recognizes* the hardship conditions under which staff members are often required to perform their official duties, and the disruption that operationally required mobility may impose on staff;

2. *Endorses* the decisions of the Commission relating to the mobility and hardship scheme as contained in paragraph 38 of its report;[1]

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of mobility as a means of developing a more versatile, multi-skilled and experienced international civil service that is capable of fulfilling complex mandates, and requests the Commission to provide an overview of the different existing mobility schemes in the organizations of the common system;

4. *Takes note* of the decisions of the Commission contained in paragraph 47 of its report and annex III thereto, and decides, with effect from 1 January 2012, that a 2.5 per cent increase shall be granted for the hardship, mobility and non-removal allowances, while the additional non-family hardship elements for staff serving in non-family duty stations shall be adjusted by the same percentage;

5. *Also takes note* of the conclusions of the Commission with respect to the establishment of danger pay as contained in paragraph 59 of its report;

6. *Further takes note* of paragraph 56 of the report of the Commission regarding the United Nations system-wide financial implications of the establishment of danger pay;

2. Performance management

Recalling its resolutions 51/216 and 63/251,

Recognizing the differing organizational strategies and cultures prevailing in the common system, and considering that a flexible approach to performance management would be desirable,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the work of the Commission with regard to the performance management framework, which would assist organizations of the common system in securing and retaining staff of the highest standard of efficiency, competency and integrity as stipulated in the Charter;

2. *Notes* that the Commission will continue its work on rewards and incentives, and requests it to take the lead in analysing new approaches in human resources management;

3. *Approves* the performance management framework contained in annex IV to the report of the Commission,[1] which should be taken into account by the organizations of the common system in furthering their policies on this matter, and requests the Commission to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation by the organizations of measures taken in response to the recommendations of the Commission;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 90 of the report of the Commission, notes the intention of the Commission to consider the use of merit steps, and requests the Commission to report on its conclusion to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

3. Education grant methodology

1. *Endorses*, with effect from the school year in progress on 1 January 2012, the amendment to the current eligibility requirements for the receipt of the education grant, as contained in paragraph 96 (a) of the report of the Commission;[1]

2. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations common system to harmonize the education grant eligibility criteria with respect to the minimum age, as specified in paragraph 96 (a) of the report of the Commission;

B. Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories

1. Post adjustment matters

Recalls paragraphs 103 and 123 of the report of the Commission[1] and paragraph 2 of section I.A of its resolution 51/216, and requests the Commission to explore the feasibility and suitability of possible measures to reflect in the administration of the post adjustment system the pay freeze of the comparator civil service; to determine whether the implementation of such measures falls under its authority; to exercise such authority, as appropriate; and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session,

2. Base/floor salary scale

Recalling its resolution 44/198, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

1. *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 2012, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 120 (a) of its report,[1] the revised base/floor salary scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as contained in annex V.A to the report;

2. *Also approves*, with effect from 1 January 2012, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 120 (b) of its report, the revised rates of staff assessment used in conjunction with gross base salaries for the Professional and higher categories of staff, as contained in annex V.B to the report;

3. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission, stated in paragraph 121 of its report, to review the staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross salaries every three years, for revision as appropriate;

3. Evolution of the margin

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 51/216 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, by which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service) employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as "the margin"),

1. *Reaffirms* that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil

service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;

2. *Notes* that the margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011 is estimated at 114.9 and that the average margin level for the past five years (2007-2011) stands at 114.1;

4. Identification of the highest paid national civil service

Takes note of the decision of the Commission contained in paragraph 106 of its report[1] to terminate its current Noblemaire study to identify the highest paid national civil service and to undertake the next study in 2016,

5. Diversity in the United Nations common system

1. *Takes note* of the status of geographical distribution in the organizations of the common system and actions being taken by the organizations to achieve equitable geographical balance;

2. *Endorses* the Commission's decision to conduct studies on recruitment policies and to revert to discussing the issue with recommended measures that would be more favourable to diversity;

3. *Requests* the Commission, when preparing proposals on measures for diversity in the United Nations common system, to bear in mind that the paramount consideration in the employment of staff is professional qualifications, which are key to the capacities of the organizations to deliver on their mandates;

C. Conditions of service in the field

1. Harmonization of the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system serving in non-family duty stations

1. *Recalls* section C of its resolution 65/248, and requests the Commission, in the context of its annual report, to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of its decisions regarding the harmonization of the conditions of service in non-family duty stations during the transition period;

2. *Requests* the Commission and the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to give due regard to the process of timely implementation of its decisions on the harmonization of the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system serving in non-family duty stations;

2. Rest and recuperation framework

Recalling paragraph 19 of section C of its resolution 65/248, requesting the Commission to regulate the rest and recuperation framework,

Approves, with effect from 1 January 2012, the revised set of criteria for the granting of rest and recuperation travel and the corresponding frequencies of travel as contained in annex VIII of the report of the Commission.[1]

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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 19 (j)
Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Sustainable Energy for All

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the text of his vision statement entitled "Sustainable Energy for All", as presented to Member States at the briefing on said issue at United Nations Headquarters on 1 November 2011.

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Sustainable Energy for All

Preface

Energy enables. The historic energy transitions — first from human power to animal power, and then from animal power to mechanical power — were major shifts in the human journey towards greater productivity, prosperity, and comfort. It is unimaginable that today's economies could function without electricity and other modern energy services. From job creation to economic development, from security concerns to the status of women, energy lies at the heart of all countries' core interests.

Today the world faces two urgent and interconnected challenges related to modern energy services, based on where they are available and where they are not. One out of every five people on Earth lives without access to electricity and the opportunities it provides for working, learning, or operating a business. Twice as many — nearly 3 billion people — use wood, coal, charcoal, or animal waste to cook their meals and heat their homes, exposing themselves and their families to smoke and fumes that damage their health and kill nearly 2 million people a year. Without access to energy, it is not possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Where modern energy services are plentiful, the challenge is different. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuels are contributing to changes in the Earth's climate, to the detriment of those who depend on the planet's natural systems for survival. Extreme weather events may grow more frequent and intense, in rich and poor countries alike, devastating lives, infrastructure, institutions and budgets. Climate change threatens food and water security for hundreds of millions of people around the world, undermining the most essential foundations of local, national and global stability. Competition for scarce resources is increasing, exacerbating old conflicts and creating new ones. As lands degrade, forests fall and sea levels rise, the movement of people driven from their homes by environmental change may reshape the human geography of the planet.

A special International Energy Agency (IEA) report, released in October 2011, indicates the scale of the challenge. IEA estimates that:

- More than 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity, and at least 2.7 billion people are without clean cooking facilities. More than 95 per cent of these people are either in sub-Saharan Africa or Asia.
- Investment of $48 billion per year will be needed to provide universal energy access by 2030. This is more than five times the amount invested in 2009 to expand energy access ($9.1 billion) but represents only 3 per cent of total global energy investment. Only $4 to $5 billion per year of that total is needed for clean cooking facilities.

Scientists warn that if the world continues on the current path, global temperatures could rise by more than four degrees Celsius by the end of this century. That will affect everything from the world economy to the health of our citizens and the health of the ecosystems that sustain life on Earth, from energy, food and water security to international security. We know now that we cannot continue to burn our way to prosperity.

We can choose a different path. Rapid advances in technologies that produce energy from renewable sources and use it more efficiently have made clean energy more affordable than ever, and technologies are being developed that promise cleaner ways of using fossil fuels. Another major shift is at hand — a transformation of the world's energy systems that will benefit people everywhere.

Growing up as a child during the Korean War, I knew poverty first-hand. I saw it around me every day; I lived it. I studied by candlelight. Conveniences like refrigerators and fans were unknown.

Today, I have seen a brighter energy future in a deeply impoverished region of Malawi, where low-cost solar energy mini-grids are powering modern technologies, such as smart phones and mobile broadband, the latest in drip irrigation and modern diagnostic tests for malaria, that have the potential to advance human well-being in ways that were not feasible even a few years ago.

In 2012 the world will gather in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20. Rio+20 represents an important opportunity for new and decisive steps to mobilize support for clean energy investment — an approach that emphasizes practical answers — and places the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development more equally at the centre of policy-making. In Rio, the world must connect the dots between growth, energy, water and food security, poverty, climate change, biodiversity, health and women's empowerment. Energy can lead the way. I urge the leaders of Governments, civil society, communities and the private sector to turn this vision into reality with concrete commitments to action. With the right actions, world leaders can improve the lives of billions of people.

At a time when so many economies are struggling, some may claim that sustainability is a luxury we cannot afford. But the opposite is true: depleting our natural resources will deplete our chances of true prosperity. We need to reduce global emissions, conserve the wealth of nature, empower the world's most vulnerable populations and catalyse low-carbon prosperity for all. None of this will be possible without a clean energy revolution.

Sustainable development is the imperative of the twenty-first century. Protecting our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth — these are different aspects of the same fight. We endeavour to create new business and market opportunities, new jobs and new possibilities for human advancement. We will not achieve any of these goals without energy — sustainable energy for all.

The goal

To defeat poverty and save the planet, we can, and must, achieve sustainable energy for all by the year 2030. Reaching this goal will require action by all countries and all sectors to shape the policy and investment decisions needed for a brighter energy future. Industrialized countries must accelerate the transition to low-emission technologies. Developing countries, many of them growing rapidly and at large scale, have the opportunity to leapfrog conventional energy options in favour of cleaner energy alternatives that will drive growth and enhance economic and social development.

In my view, three linked objectives underpin the goal of achieving sustainable energy for all by 2030:

- Ensuring universal access to modern energy services
- Doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

These three objectives, each one important in its own right, reinforce each other in many instances: increasingly affordable renewable energy technologies are bringing modern energy services to rural communities where extension of the conventional electric power grid would be prohibitively expensive and impractical. More efficient devices for lighting and other applications require less energy and thus reduce the amount of power needed to support them. Increased efficiency in the production and use of electricity relieves strained power grids, allowing them to reach more households and businesses. All energy sources and technologies have roles to play in achieving universal access in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fashion. Achieving the three objectives together will maximize development benefits and help stabilize climate change in the long run.

Why act now?

Technological change is bringing long-standing and broadly held goals within reach in many areas, including energy. Achieving sustainable energy for all is an ambitious but achievable goal, which is becoming increasingly affordable with the rapid advance of technology. If the world is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and keep global temperatures from rising by more than two degrees Celsius, concrete steps to achieve sustainable energy for all are not only necessary and urgent but very likely represent the lowest-cost path forward.

For a model of transformative change that has reached every corner of the world, we can look to the mobile phone. Twenty years ago, the idea of universal access to mobile communication would have seemed preposterous. Yet rapidly falling costs, resulting from improved technology, coupled with conducive national regulatory systems, allowed entrepreneurs to pioneer innovative business models in the most unlikely places and attract many billions of dollars of investment capital. The results are astonishing. At the end of 2010, according to the International Telecommunication Union, there were 5.3 billion mobile phone subscriptions worldwide, including 4 billion in developing countries. On a per capita basis, mobile phone penetration has now reached 70 per cent in developing countries, driven by energetic entrepreneurs, pre-paid calling plans and vast networks of small resellers. From mobile banking in Kenya to crop price data in India, from language lessons in Bangladesh to health information in Ethiopia, this new technology is breaking down barriers and giving people new tools to improve their lives.

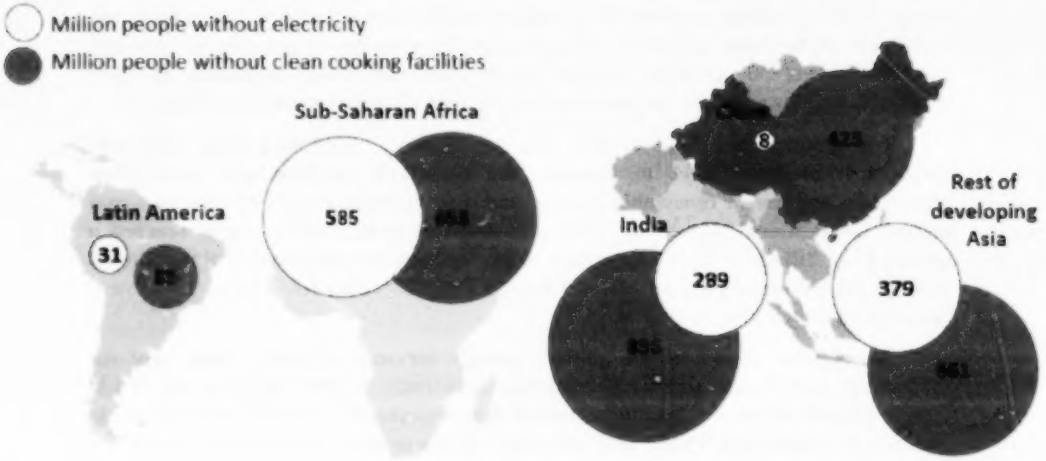
A similar paradigm may next emerge in distributed energy generation. During the last five years, the renewable energy industry has seen tremendous growth, with capacity expanding, prices declining and performance improving. At least 118 countries, half of them developing countries, have put in place some form of policy target or renewable support policy at the national level, as have a number of state and local governments, with increasingly impressive results. The rapid expansion of wind power has enabled Denmark, for example, to obtain 20 per cent of its total

energy from renewable sources. Bangladesh installed more than 500,000 solar home systems in three years. Countries with abundant biomass resources, like Sweden and Brazil, now get 50 per cent of their energy from renewable resources. In 2009 renewable energy supplied an estimated 16 per cent of global energy consumption.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was officially established in April 2011 to promote the increased adoption and sustainable production and use of renewable energy, and now includes nearly 85 members and around 70 additional signatories. Global investment in renewable energy reached a record $211 billion in 2010, according to an analysis commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme, and for the first time, over half of this investment occurred in developing countries.

Investments in access to modern energy services in many cases pay for themselves and deliver additional economic dividends. A 2006 study by the World Health Organization, for example, found that introducing cleaner cookstoves, in addition to improving health and reducing illness-related expenditures, improves family livelihoods, stimulates development and contributes to environmental sustainability. These benefits include time savings due to fewer days of illness and less time spent on fuel collection and cooking. Making improved stoves available over a 10-year period to half of the households worldwide that are still using traditional fuels and stoves (see figure below) would save those families $34 billion per year and generate an economic return of $105 billion per year, according to the report of the World Health Organization. In addition, achieving universal access to modern energy services was projected by the International Energy Agency to cause only a negligible increase (less than 1 per cent) in global carbon dioxide emissions.

The benefits of investing in energy efficiency have been extensively documented. Opportunities exist everywhere in the world to increase energy efficiency in power generation and the industrial, buildings, commercial and transport sectors. According to IEA, each additional $1 spent on more efficient electrical equipment, appliances and buildings avoids more than $2, on average, in energy supply investments. Capturing all cost-effective energy efficiency measures could reduce the expected increase in global energy consumption over the next two decades by between 55 and 75 per cent. These savings would be split fairly evenly between industrialized countries and the rest of the world.



Barriers to overcome

Many factors, including the technological and economic readiness of clean energy solutions, have impeded progress towards sustainable energy for all. Key issues include:

Path dependence caused by the existing global energy infrastructure, built at great cost and with substantial benefit to the world over the past century. Policies and politics too often favour the status quo in Government and industry, locking in institutional frameworks and protecting existing arrangements even where better alternatives exist.

Financial obstacles caused by the high initial costs of clean energy technologies, including advanced fossil fuel technologies, particularly when these costs are paid directly by consumers, even if low operating costs yield net savings in the long run. Sources of financing, including multilateral institutions, bilateral assistance, national development banks, the private sector and carbon markets, are limited and not well coordinated. Small-scale renewable energy and energy efficiency projects can be particularly difficult to finance because of their high transaction costs relative to their size.

Pricing and regulatory policies and practices that diminish returns on capital and impede private investment in energy or that ignore the external costs of conventional energy sources — for example, the environmental and health costs of pollution, or the economic and security costs of dependence on imported fuels. According to IEA, less developed countries will pay 5 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) for imported oil in 2011, four times the level in 2000. Yet some of these same countries impose high import duties and taxes on clean energy alternatives. In addition, national governments subsidized fossil-fuel use in 2010 at a cost of more than $400 billion. Good governance and strong internal capacity reduce risk to private-sector investors; however, many countries lack the human resources and technical capacity to evaluate alternative energy options and develop appropriate policies.

Business models that are based on the long history of public and private monopolies in the energy sector. Building out a national electricity grid has historically been a successful strategy for achieving high rates of energy access in many countries, but it is not as well suited to serving sparsely populated or remote areas. IEA estimates that 70 per cent of these areas will first be connected through stand-alone mini-grid or off-grid technologies. Such solutions will require business models that are commercially viable, global markets for distributed energy systems, entrepreneurial supply chains that can reach remote areas, increased consumer acceptance, community-based service delivery models and innovative financing mechanisms. These elements are beginning to emerge but have a long way to go to reach global scale.

Scaling up success

Increasing numbers of success stories are emerging that address the obstacles to expanding energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy. In order to build on these examples and scale up required actions, we will need:

- **Leadership and commitment**. Individual leaders, whether in business, finance, government, or civil society, can embrace the need for energy transformation, direct their organizations to get engaged, communicate the benefits to key constituencies and spur innovation and results. At the country level, a clear articulation of national goals provides the basis for effective policies and engagement with the private sector.

- **Stable policy and regulatory frameworks**. Proper incentives are needed to stimulate markets to do what they do best — spur innovation to drive down the cost curve, invest in business-led solutions and satisfy demand. Experience has shown that several factors enable the successful deployment of clean energy solutions. These include supportive policy, legal and institutional frameworks; active public-sector engagement (including research funding and government procurement); policies that ensure social and environmental sustainability; elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies (as called for by the Group of Twenty); innovative public-private partnerships; and support for renewable energy industries and energy entrepreneurs.

- **Financing the transformation**. According to IEA, universal access to modern energy services can be achieved for less than $50 billion per year. This should be within reach. Already $9 billion is being invested annually in this area, and the poor themselves spend $38 billion per year on costly, dirty and inefficient fuel-based lighting alone, according to a 2005 analysis by a Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory scientist. The incremental cost of doubling the rate of change in energy efficiency and the global share of renewable energy, however, each may be 10 times larger than the cost of universal access, namely, $500 billion per year. Such sums are far more than Governments alone can provide, but could be mustered in a sector that invests more than $1 trillion and collects more than $5 trillion annually in revenues. A report by the McKinsey Global Institute in 2008 concluded that investing $170 billion annually in energy efficiency worldwide could generate an average internal rate of return of 17 per cent and produce energy savings of up to $900 billion per year. More innovative coordination and use of limited public funds could

reduce risk through better policies and regulation and spur the much larger flows of private investment needed for a global energy transformation. Financial institutions in developing countries could also play a larger role as their economies expand.

- **Strengthened capacity**. Developed and developing countries alike need stronger human and institutional resources to implement effective policies, market-based mechanisms, business models, investment tools and regulations with regard to energy. Additional capacity is also needed on the ground to support innovative, bottom-up solutions and to finance, deliver, operate and maintain new energy systems. This is a business opportunity that will create jobs and spur development, but training and technical assistance will be required to take it to scale. An analysis by the United Nations Development Programme in 2010 found that successful off-grid energy projects in developing countries invest significantly in capacity-building — as much as half of the project cost during the initial years.

- **Innovation**. Increased support for research and development is needed from Governments and the private sector to reduce the cost and improve the performance of clean energy technologies and ensure that they are designed to meet the needs of consumers in all parts of the world. Many clean technologies are cost-effective, and with additional research and development, could become the rule, not the exception.

- **Communication and awareness**. All stakeholders need to understand not only the challenge, but also the opportunity. Access to information and knowledge facilitates policymaking, guides investment decisions and orients individual choices and behaviours. Increased cooperation and sharing of best practices, especially among developing countries, will be crucial.

The Sustainable Energy for All initiative

Recognizing the importance and urgency of energy challenges, in 2010 the General Assembly declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. In so doing, the Assembly noted "the efforts of the United Nations system to work towards ensuring energy access for all and to protect the environment through the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, cleaner technologies and newer energy sources". Additionally, the General Assembly, in deciding to organize the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, decided that one of the principal themes of the conference would be "a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", for which sustainable energy must be a central element.

The Sustainable Energy for All initiative seeks to identify and mobilize action by all stakeholders in support of energy access, energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy. To organize these efforts, I have formed a new High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, led by Kandeh Yumkella, Chair of UN-Energy and Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and by Charles Holliday, Chair of Bank of America and former chief executive officer of DuPont.

The immediate task of the Group will be to recommend an action agenda on the basis of which all stakeholders can make concrete commitments to move the world towards sustainable energy for all by 2030. The Group will also design processes for shared learning and accountability to enable participants to communicate about successes and failures and to ensure that commitments are kept and progress is tracked in an open and transparent way.

The Sustainable Energy for All initiative will also provide a global platform for existing and planned initiatives to reinforce one another. Ongoing initiatives include Energy for All (Asian Development Bank), the Clean Energy Ministerial, the Low-Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) Global Partnership, Lighting Africa (International Finance Corporation and World Bank Group), Energy+ (Norway), Energy for the Poor (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development), the Paris-Nairobi Climate Initiative, the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership, the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy Initiative, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, as well as the European Union's decision to make access to sustainable energy a development priority through its "Agenda for Change".

Countries such as China, India, Nepal, Brazil and South Africa are also leading the way with national initiatives. At the same time, the Global Compact and United Nations country teams on the ground will seek to facilitate public-private partnerships to scale up investment and accelerate progress.

Commitments can take many forms. Direct financial support and assistance will be one of many commitments needed. Many emerging economies are undertaking major domestic programmes to achieve sustainable energy for all. Countries can contribute by preparing a sustainable energy investment plan and committing to creating a favourable environment for private investment, for example, by removing unproductive tariffs and inefficient subsidies.

The private sector, too, will be central to achieving the goal of sustainable energy for all. Leaders of business and industry can contribute by making their companies, practices and supply chains more efficient, and by joining in public-private partnerships to expand the deployment of sustainable energy products and services.

The work of achieving sustainable energy for all will not be completed in a single year, or even in the five-year term of a Secretary-General. But we must begin. As United States President, John F. Kennedy, said 50 years ago, "we must think and act not only for the moment but for our time".